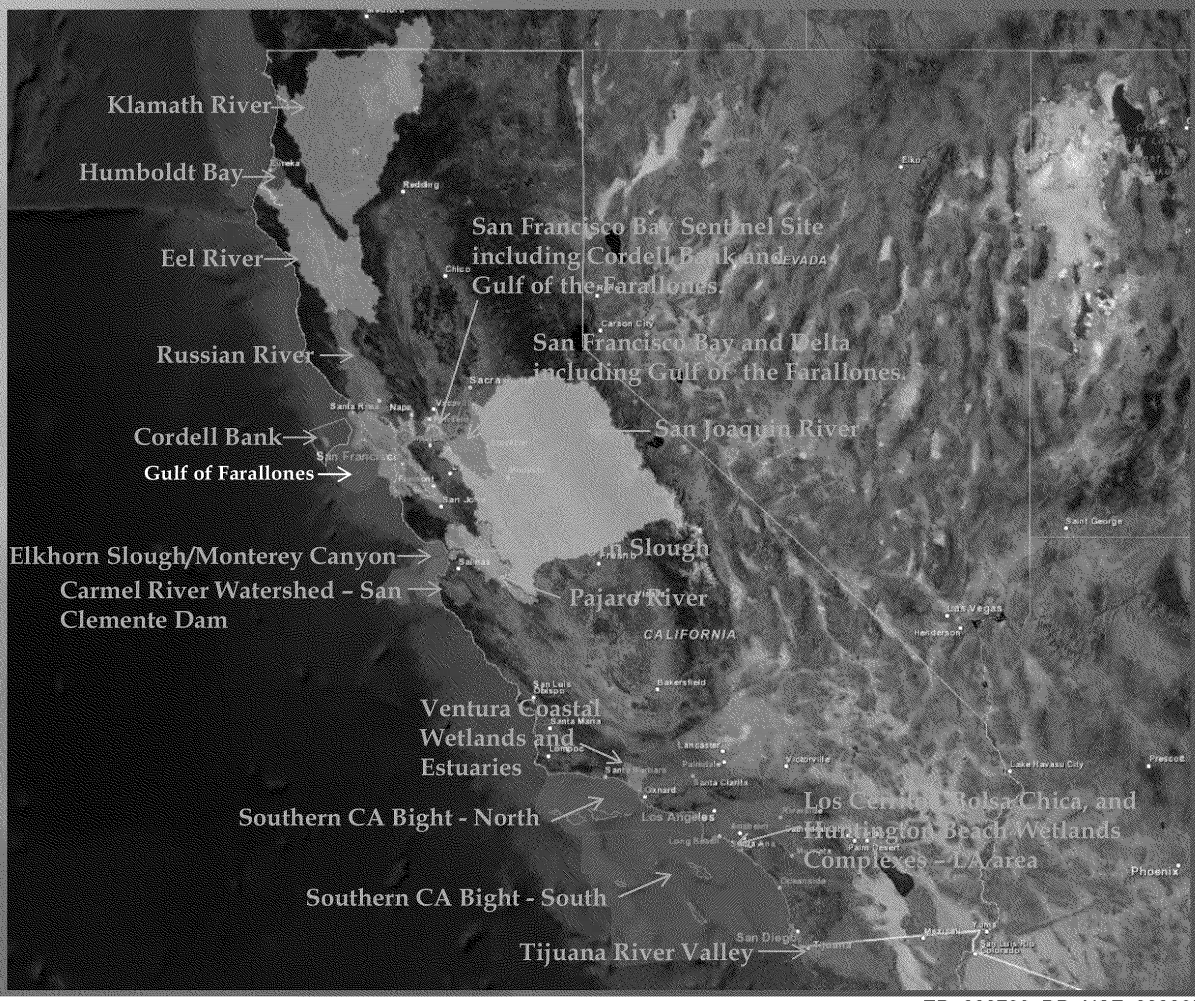
Candidate Focus Area	NOAA Primary Objectives	Threats/Issues in the Area
Carmel River Watershed - San Clemente Dam	The objective is to reduce the current safety risk the dam creates and to improve fisheries and watershed/riparian health by restoring fish passage, spawning, rearing, and riverine habitat.	Climate change, watershed health. Impacts of dam include fish passage obstruction, upland and bank erosion, sedimentation, lack of canopy cover and woody debris, water usage, reduced water quality, noxious weeds.
Cordell Bank	Maintain and improve integrity of deep reef sponge/coral habitat on Cordell Bank to enhance young of year survival and increase recruits to adult populations of recovering rockfish species.	Damage to deep reef sponge/coral habitat from activities that impact upper Bank. This area is designated as an Essential Fish Habitat Conservation area supporting recruitment of yelloweye, canary, widow and several species of "overfished" rockfish.
Eel River	Restore salmon and steelhead rearing and spawning habitat by restoring access to historic rearing and spawning habitat above dams and railroad crossings, reinstitute historic flow regimes, protect and restore estuary and tidal sloughs.	Fishery resources on Eel River at record lows, Legacy impacts of logging, road building, and agriculture on fish habitat, hydrologic modifications/flooding, water diversion impacts, invasive species.
Elkhorn Slough	Leverage partnerships to facilitate habitat restoration projects with strong community support to restore ecosystem balance and increase resiliency.	Wetlands loss, water quality, land use, invasive species, use conflicts, endangered species
Elkhorn Slough/Monterey Canyon	Conserve existing high quality estuarine habitats and restore native oyster beds and degraded estuarine habitats. Improve understanding of ESA-listed salmonids and green sturgeon. Protect marine mammals through MMPA (harbor seals).	Urban and agriculture development impacting wetlands and flow of water through slough. Loss of productive wetlands, non-native/invasive species, non-point source pollution, including agricultural run-off
Humboldt Bay	The objectives are to improve Humboldt Bay watershed health, shoreline resiliency and existing aquaculture/fisheries operations and to protect and restore eelgrass and coastal wetlands.	Sediment management, land use, community development, climate change, seal level rise, water quality, watershed health, fisheries/aquaculture, invasive species
Klamath River	Advance restoration of salmonid fisheries to support recreational, commercial and tribal harvests including restoring access above dam. Improve water quality and establish reliable water & power supplies to sustain natural & human communities.	Conflicts with Klamath Project water deliveries and ESA listed salmonids; Adult fall-run Chinook die-off; Commercial harvest restrictions/closures due to weak stocks; Toxic algal blooms in reservoirs.

Candidate Focus Area	NOAA Primary Objectives	Threats/Issues in the Area
Los Cerritos, Bolsa Chica, Huntington Beach wetlands complexes – LA area	Acquisition and restoration of these tidal marshes, wetland and subtidal eelgrass habitats will provide critical habitat for juvenile fish and other threatened and endangered species, and recreation opportunities.	The focus is to acquire and restore tidal marsh and related habitats within the focus area including coastal salt and freshwater marsh at the mouth of the Santa Ana River.
Pajaro River	Watershed restoration to restore ecosystem function.	Water diversions, high nutrient levels, migration barriers for salmonids, loss of stream side habitat, high water temperatures.
Russian River	Pursue strategies that foster sustainable development, habitat restoration, and conservation within the watershed and adjacent ocean areas. Recover spawning Coho populations. Enhance weather predictions to inform ag and municipal water management.	Manage flood risk and impacts on fisheries, existing and future water management, salmonid recovery, watershed health/land use, climate change, lower river/estuarine water quality.
San Francisco Bay and Delta including Gulf of the Farallones	Protect/restore eelgrass, oyster beds, and tidal wetlands. Pilot living shoreline project. Improve understanding salmonid and green sturgeon use of San Francisco Bay. Monitor marine mammal ship strikes. Integrate goals and plans.	Impact of urban and agriculture development on wetlands, intertidal, subtidal habitat; native oyster restoration; use conflicts; marine mammal ship strikes in shipping lanes. oil spill impacts; sea level rise.
San Francisco Bay Sentinel Site Including Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones	The objectives are to advance existing habitat management plans, leverage partnerships to increase coastal resilience, improved watershed health and fisheries.	Habitat degradation/wetland restoration, sea level rise, native oyster restoration, use conflicts, invasive species, salmonid habitat, Dungeness crab nursery, water diversion
San Joaquin River	Restore and maintain anadromous run of salmon and steelhead populations in "good condition" in the main stem of the San Joaquin R. below Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River, including naturally-reproducing populations of salmon.	Historic operation of Friant Dam resulted in significant portions of the San Joaquin R. between Friant Dam and confluence of Merced R. being dry impacting salmon fisheries, and channel and riparian habitat.
Southern CA Bight – North	Protect/restore eelgrass, coastal wetlands, riparian habitat, rocky reef habitat. Recover steelhead and abalone. Assess risk of ships striking large whales. Clarify role of offshore oil and gas structure in providing fish habitat.	Development impacting wetlands, intertidal, subtidal, riparian habitats; water quality/quantity; climate change; fishing gear impacts; shoreline protection; offshore energy development; vessel strikes on marine mammals.

Candidate Focus Area	NOAA Primary Objectives	Threats/Issues in the Area
Southern CA Bight – South	Protect/restore eelgrass, coastal wetlands, riparian habitat, rocky reef habitat. Recover steelhead and abalone. Assess risk of ships striking large whales. Clarify role of offshore oil and gas structure in providing fish habitat.	Development impacting wetlands, intertidal, subtidal, riparian habitats; water quality/quantity; climate change; fishing gear impacts; shoreline protection; offshore energy development; vessel strikes on marine mammals.
Tijuana River Valley	The objective is to increase coastal resiliency through the application ecosystem services and restoration research to management decisions.	Habitat loss, threatened/endangered species recovery, climate change, recreational access, regional planning approaches.
Ventura Coastal Wetlands and Estuaries	Restore the river's estuarine and riparian habitat from the mouth 38 miles inland, provide a continuous trail, and provide flood management benefits through the removal of levees that in several reaches are constraining the river.	Threatened or endangered species and twenty more species of concern. This river is considered crucial to the health and revival of this salmonid.

NOAA Candidate Focus Areas



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Carmel River Watershed – San Clemente Dam

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Cordell Bank

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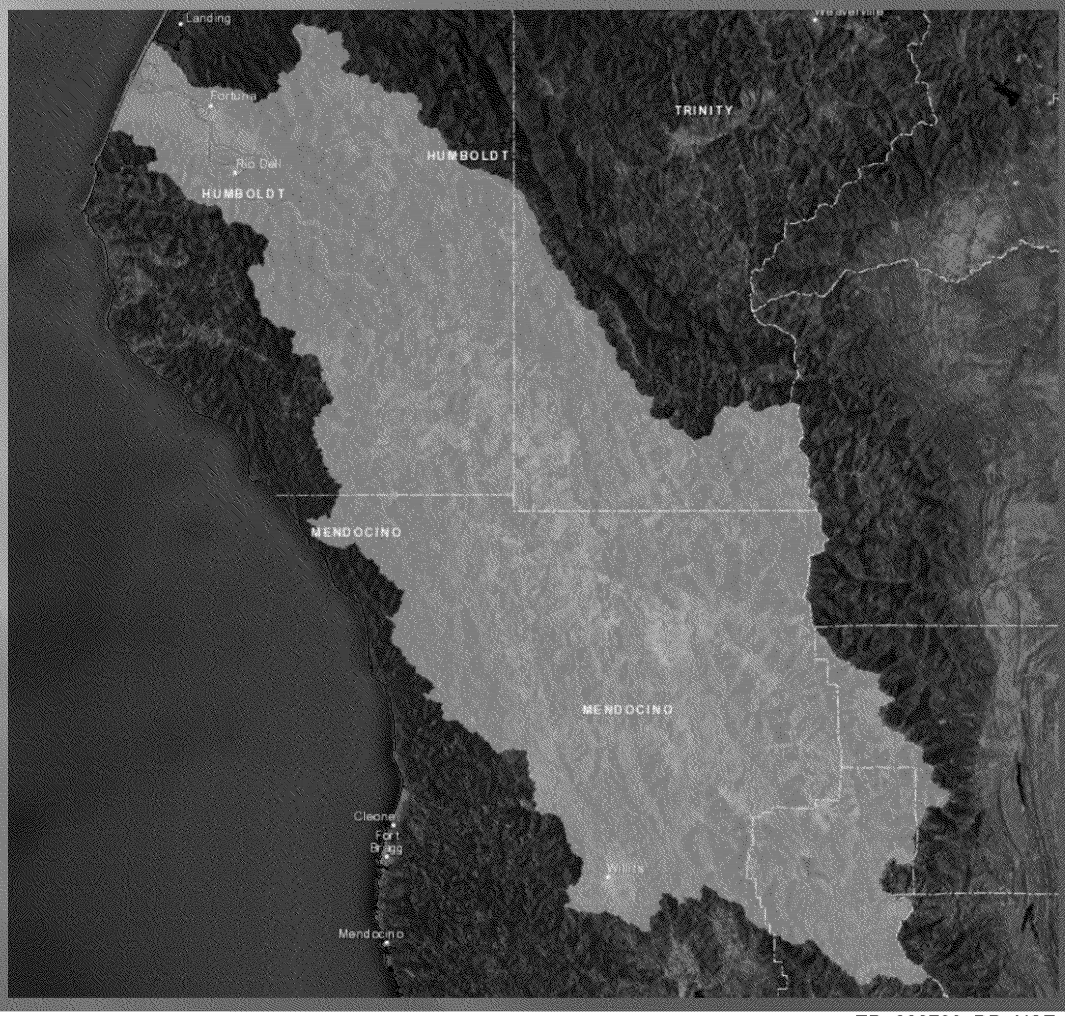
Eel River



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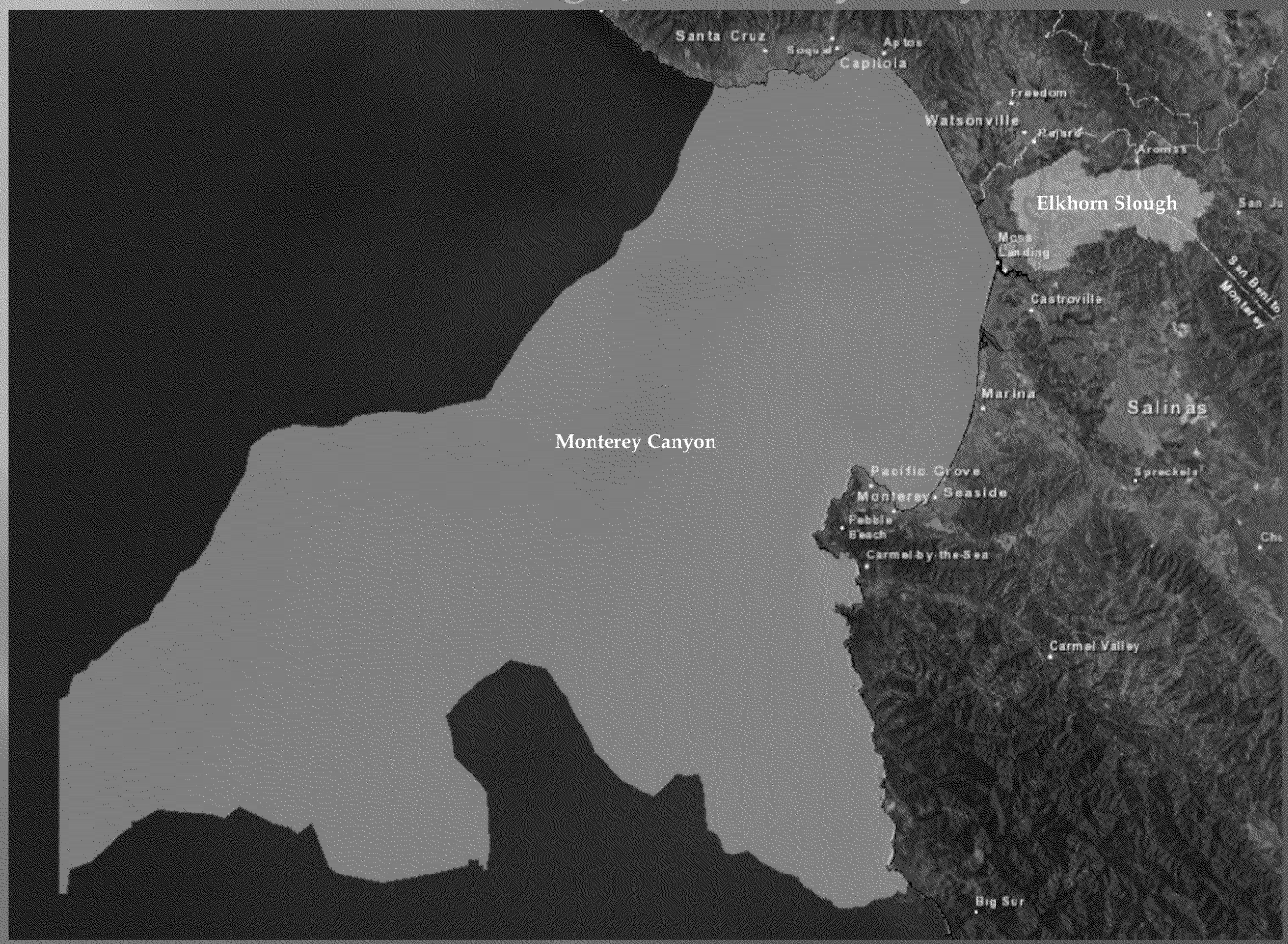
Elkhorn Slough / Monterey Canyon



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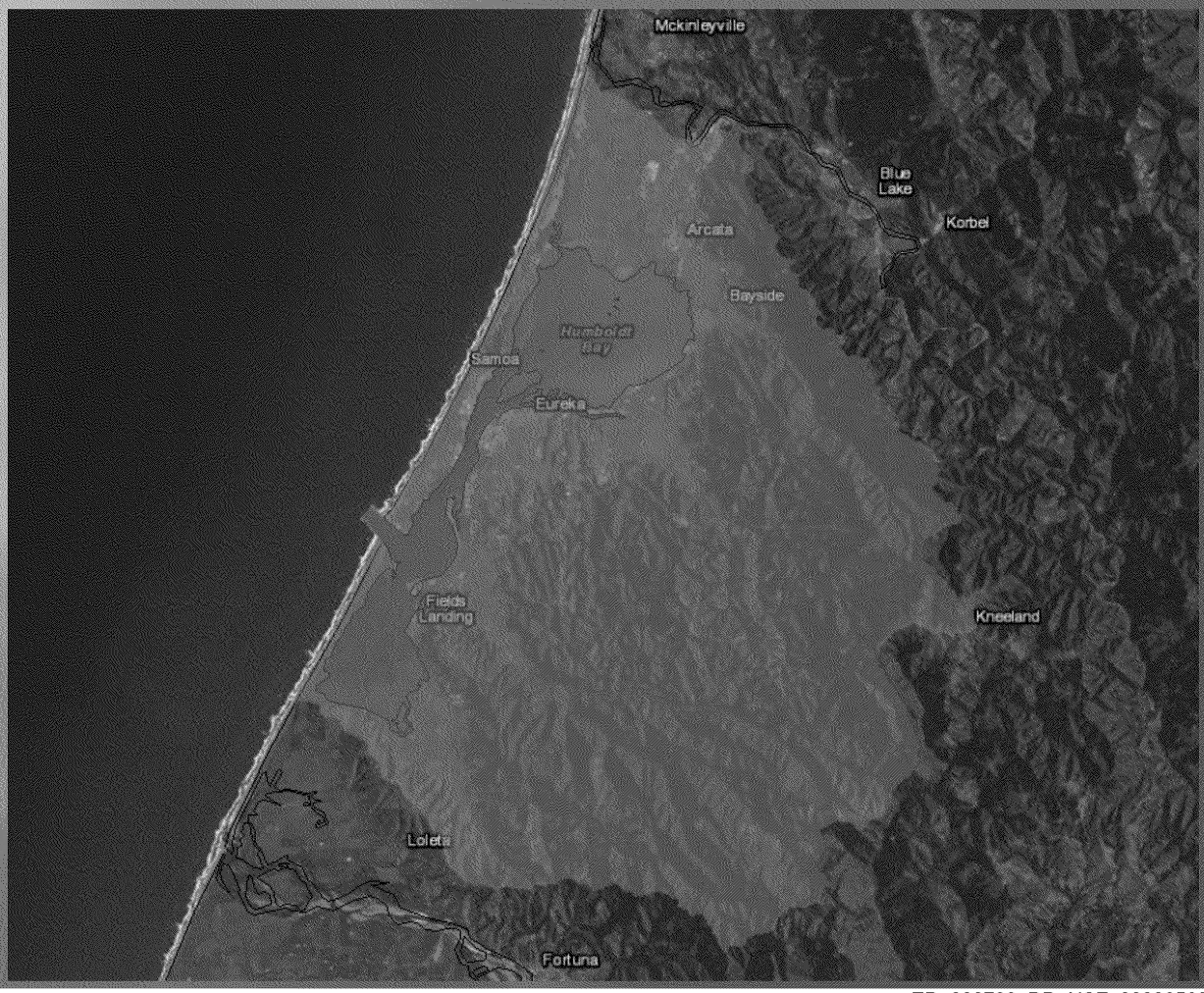
Humboldt Bay



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Klamath River

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Los Cerritos, Bolsa Chica, and Huntington Beach Wetlands Complexes – LA Area

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Pajaro River

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Russian River

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San Francisco Bay and Delta

(including Gulf of the Farallones)

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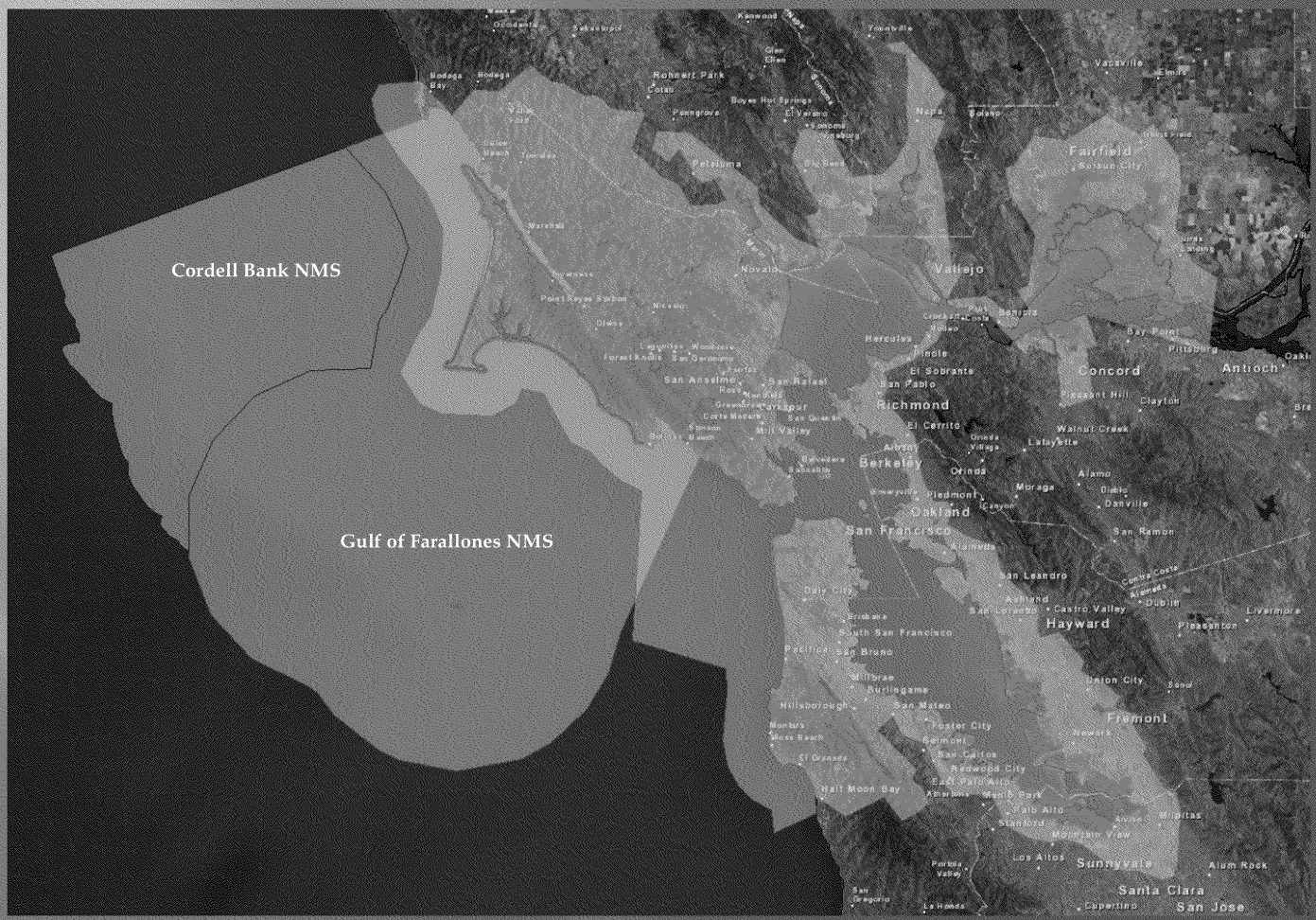
San Francisco Bay Sentinel Site

(including Cordell Bank and Gulf of Farallones)



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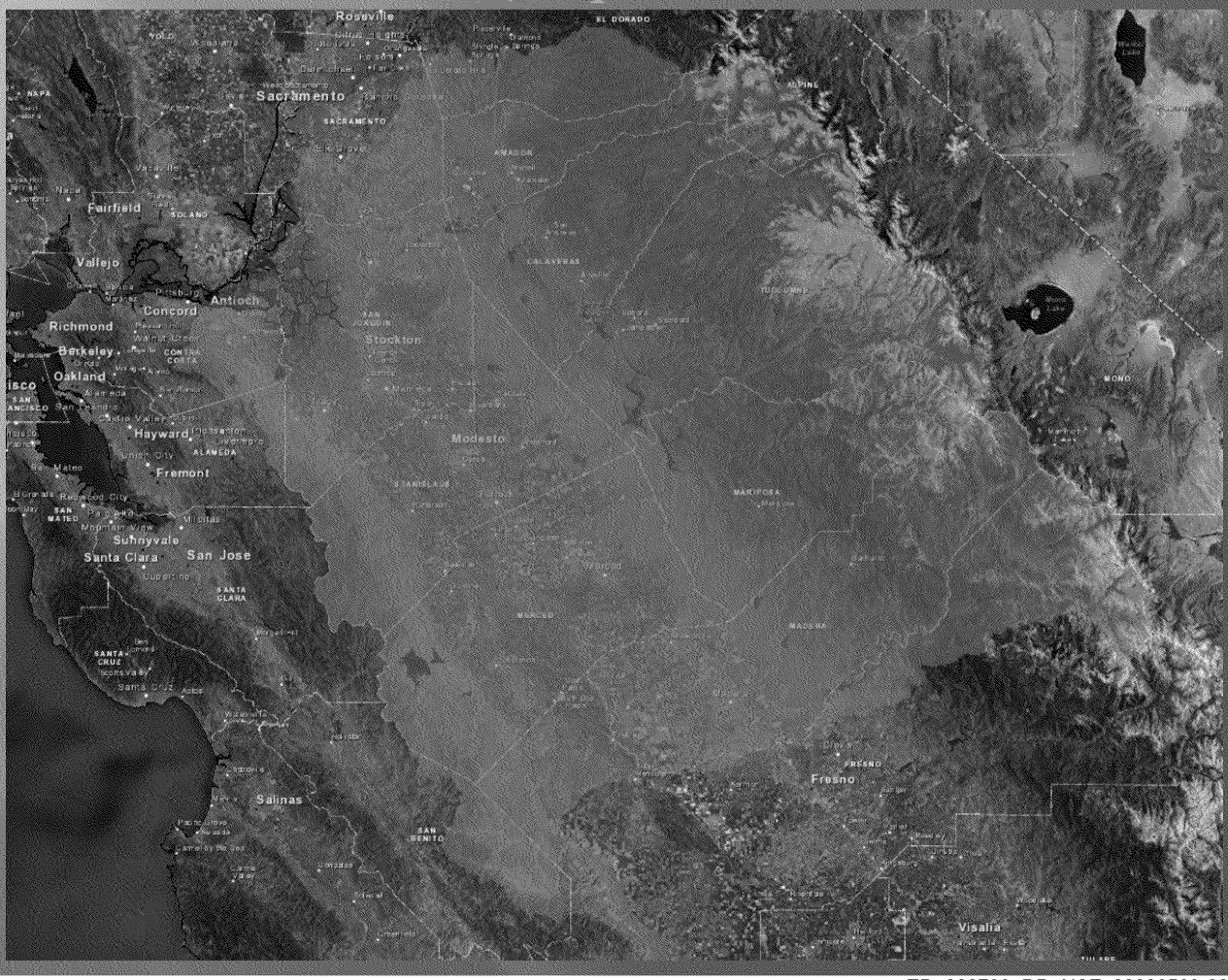
San Joaquin River



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Southern CA Bight - North

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Southern CA Bight - South

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Tijuana River Valley

Ventura Coastal Wetlands and Estuaries

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